



Wisconsin Literacy (WL) asks that Community-based Adult and Family Literacy receive support through additional funds in the Governor's budget under DPI to provide digital literacy training, tutor training, curriculum resources, professional development, information and referrals, and connectivity to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners to benefit the 70 local member literacy agencies serving over 14,000 adults and families in Wisconsin.

Our request is in the 2023-25 Governor's Budget at \$742,500 under DPI. (page 514)

<https://doa.wi.gov/budget/SBO/2023-25%20Executive%20Budget%20Complete%20Document%20ASE.pdf>

Mission: Changing lives by strengthening literacy statewide.

Vision: All people in Wisconsin have the literacy skills to reach their full potential.

We support 70 member literacy agencies serving [86% of Wisconsin](#) counties and advocate for and disseminate literacy resources and training that directly impact adult learners. Our [Wisconsin Health Literacy](#) (WHL) division provides health literacy programming on current and chronic health issues statewide. Through a 10-year effort to redesign prescription medication labels, millions of labels across the state are now easier to read and understand, resulting in improved patient safety and health outcomes.

We are a feeder system into our state's technical colleges preparing a pipeline of learners with foundational literacy and math skills who otherwise would not know about broader educational or career pathways.

With additional state funds, WL can continue providing local member literacy agencies and their students with direct resources focused on:

- **GED completion**
- **Digital literacy skills**
- **Work readiness skills**
- **Language acquisition**
- **Health literacy**
- **Transitions to technical college career pathways and/or workforce training programs.**

Funding will allow WL to continue the work of 5 part-time regional literacy consultants and a digital literacy project manager. Their work facilitates the connections between local literacy staff/volunteer tutors and various workforce partners (W-2 agencies, Workforce Development Boards, Worker Connection Program) and the state agencies listed below.

Additional DPI funding will provide local literacy agencies with infrastructure supports to sustain their services, including digital/broadband access. This resource is particularly essential for mid to small and rural agencies, which serve students coming from a broad geographic area who face transportation challenges.

In addition, we will continue to provide health literacy trainings and information that is accessible and understandable for each community.

WL is primarily funded by and partners with the following state agencies:

- DPI (Dept. of Public Instruction) \$83,200/yr.
- DCF (Dept. of Children and Families) \$359,400/yr.
- DOA (Dept. of Administration) – \$521,000 Digital Literacy CARES Act funds to end Dec. 31, 2024
- DHS (Dept. of Health Services) - \$1,362,353/over 3 years to end June 30, 2024
- DOC (Dept. of Corrections) No Funding to WL
- DWD (Dept. of Workforce Development) (\$175,000/yr. Federal WIOA funds to end June 30, 2023)
- WTCS (Wisconsin Technical College System) (No Funding to WL)

These partnerships help streamline services and better prepare adult students to achieve their education, health, and career goal.

In reference to our state agency funding allocations, it is anticipated that FY24 will see a reduction or end to all but the DPI and DCF funding that supports WL efforts. For Wisconsin Literacy to continue supporting 70 member agencies who annually instruct more than 14,000 adult students statewide, sustained, and reliable funding support will be required.

Community-based Adult and Family Literacy does not have access to State GPR or [Carl Perkins Funds](#). Presently, Wisconsin Literacy has no access to the federal WIOA Title II [Adult Education and Family Literacy Act](#) (AEFLA) State Leadership funds. This federal funding is disseminated by staff at the WTCS state office which currently maintains 100% of that funding for internal use.

The return on investment for the additional \$742,500 is measured annually in the increased number of GED completers, including increased referrals of W-2 participants who complete their GED; increased referral of prepared adult students to WTCS and local workforce training programs; and increased skills in English language, digital literacy, work readiness and health literacy. Improvement in the skills and education of these adult students is critical to the workforce, health and overall strength of the State of Wisconsin.

For questions or more information:

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